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## **Chamber meets in Yankeetown *Buddy and Fred's Hardware wins Annual Scarecrow Contest; Satellite transfer station may be built in southern Levy County***



**Creating and serving the meal on Tuesday night, were (from left) Mike Flanders, Jen Oconnor, Matt Pank and Lisa Flanders, all of Shrimp Landing, a seafood restaurant in Inglis.**

### **Story and Photos**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 30, 2019 at 10:09 p.m.**

**YANKEETOWN** -- The Withlacoochee Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting on Tuesday night (Oct. 29) provided an opportunity for entertainment, information and education for all of the members and guests present.

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**Seen here are Yolanda Canchola (left) of Compass Homes and Land, a real estate agency in Inglis, and Withlacoochee Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce staff member Terri Harris, who works in the Chamber office on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. That is the extent that the Chamber can afford a paid staff member right now. Also, there is an urgent need for people willing to serve as volunteers on the Chamber Board of Directors.**

This annual event was once again a Low Country Boil and Brew festivity, which included a main course of shrimp, corn-on-the-cob, sausage and potatoes as the low country boil. Prepared by members of Shrimp Landing Restaurant, the menu included crab, rice and beans, coleslaw, hush puppies, cornbread and rolls, too. Beyond that, from a dining perspective, there was a long table full of a wide variety of desserts.

As for drinks, all of the 30 or so individuals present were welcome to enjoy a number of different types of wine, beer, sweet tea, unsweet tea or lemonade.

Withlacoochee Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce President Richard Streeter served as emcee for the night.

He welcomed elected and appointed government representatives, including Levy County Commissioner Mike Joyner, County Commissioner Lilly Rooks, County Coordinator Wilbur Dean, Inglis Mayor Drinda Merritt, Yankeetown Vice Mayor Jean Holbrook, and Yankeetown Town Clerk-Treasurer-Administrator Sherri MacDonald.

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Enjoying the event in their town are Yankeetown Vice Mayor Jean Holbrook, and Yankeetown Town Clerk-Treasurer-Administrator Sherri MacDonald.



Duke Energy (Florida) Community Relations Manager Dorothy Pernu walks toward the dining area after being served dinner. This Chamber Annual Dinner Meeting was sponsored by Duke Energy, a member of the Chamber.

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Helen Ciallella of Yankeetown stands with Chamber President Richard Streeter as she tells about the Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure in the area this past weekend. She said there were almost 100 kayakers in the area for three to five days. The Nature Coast Inn held the

meet and greet part of the event. The Blackwater Grill and Bar hosted the Friday night dinner, which was said to be extraordinary for taste and included exemplary service. The Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve provided a nature walk. Kayakers shared space for the Sunday Brunch at the WGP with the Yankeetown-Ingليس Woman's Club, Ciallella said.



Levy County Tourist Development Council Executive Director Tisha Whitehurst, keynote speaker of the night, spoke about the recent announcement of funding for the Chamber's kiosk, and for improvements to the Nature Coast Biological Station, as detailed in this Oct. 25 HardisonInk.com story, seen by clicking [HERE](#). Whitehurst also spoke about the relocation of the Levy County Visitors Bureau from Bronson to Williston as detailed in this Sept. 27 HardisonInk.com story, seen by clicking [HERE](#).

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During the meeting President Streeter said the Chamber needs new members of its board. Three members are expected to leave soon, he said.

There is one meeting on a Monday each month, he said. The main responsibility beyond that is planning events, and taking responsibility for the Chamber activities.

“It is a lot of fun,” Streeter said. “It is some hard work. But it’s our community, friends, and right now we really need some new blood on the board; because if we lose three people out of eight, we are going to be having some problems.”

Streeter introduced Past President Marilyn Ladner, Vice President Drinda Merritt, Lisa Levesque, Helen J. Ciallella and some other board members who were present Tuesday night. The Chamber’s website does not list any of them.

Near the conclusion of the meeting Ciallella spoke about the Healthy Community Initiative.

Ciallella said that by having representatives from the many civic, fraternal, scholastic and government groups meet together routinely, the entire community is better served. People working together and organizing events together find they have more effective and efficient use of resources, and the general public is better served.

County Commissioner Joyner shared with listeners that the county has a particular location for the placement of the next satellite solid waste transfer station, to help residents who might be driving to the main collection point between Bronson and Williston.

The first of these satellite locations opened recently on Levy County Road 347 between the community of Fowlers Bluff and the City of Cedar Key. Click [HERE](#) to read the Oct. 11 HardisonInk.com story about that.



**Past Chamber President Marilyn Ladner speaks about the South Levy County Area as having the most warm and generous people she has ever known.**

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This door prize was won by Jeff M. Hardison, whose business *HardisonInk.com* is a member of the Chamber. Wilbur Dean, county coordinator for Levy County, won a door prize just like this one. It was full of candy, and is a plastic jar, decorated to look like a witch.

Winners of door prizes, two Halloween decorated bags with candy in them, are Millie Yazel of the Yankeetown-Ingليس Woman's Club Thrift Shop and Yolanda Canchola of Compass Homes and Land Realty.



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**This First Place Plaque for the Best Scarecrow in the Withlacoochee Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Scarecrow Contest will have the name Buddy and Fred's Hardware etched into it for 2019. The 2017 winner was Scott's Paint & Body Repair. The 2018 winner was D.A.B. Constructors Inc.**



**Art Aho was the recipient of the Lifetime Membership certificate from the Withlacoochee Gulf Area Chamber of Commerce. He was not present Tuesday night.**

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**Davey Padot, a real estate specialist in the area, is a native to the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties. Working with him for real estate sales in the Inglis-Yankeetown area, and present at the Chamber meeting Tuesday are (back row, from left) Jennifer Molzen and Preslee Salter, and standing next to Padot, Susan Steingress.**